

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 01811 290935Z

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ACTION XMB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5932

INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 1811

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, CM

SUBJ: VISIT OF EXIMBANK LOAN OFFICERS TO CAMEROON

REF: STATE 121877

1. GURC AND EMBASSY ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOME VISIT OF LOAN OFFICERS PHILIP DUNTON AND SUSAN PEARSON TO CAMEROON. HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR JUNE 8 AND 9 RECONFIRMED SHERATON MONT FEBE PALACE. CONSULATE IN DOUALA MAKING RESERVATIONS AT AKWA PALACE HOTEL FOR JUNE 7 AND 10.

2. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRATA RICE PROJECT, RENE OWONO AND LEONARD MPOUMA (FORMER MINISTER OF COMMERCE) PROPOSE TAKING DUNTON AND PEARSON TO GRATA RICE SEED STATION AT DSCHANG ON SUNDAY, JUNE 8, FOLLOWING ARRIVAL IN YAOUNDE. ONE OR BOTH LOAN OFFICERS ARE ALSO INVITED TO VISIT RICE PROJECT SITE AND EXISTING SOSUCAM SUGAR PROJECT, WHICH IS EXIM LOAN GUARANTEE RECIPIENT, AT MBANDJOCK ON MONDAY, JUNE 9. TO SAVE TIME TRAVEL WILL BE BY CHARTERED PLANE PAID FOR BY NEWLY FORMED RICE PROJECT CORPORATION, SANAGE. RICE CORPORATION. GRATA REPRESENTATIVE, MANUEL LOPEZ DE QUINTANA, WHO IS NOW IN EUROPE, IS ALSO AT DISPOSAL OF LOAN OFFICERS AND IS PLANNING RETURN TO CAMEROON DURING VISIT.

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3. GURC ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO RICE PROJECT. MOREOVER,

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT PENDING FROM STANDPOINT OF AMERICAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND POTENTIAL SALES OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT. EMBASSY URGES THAT EXIM REPS SHOW READINESS TO GIVE CAREFUL AND FULL CONSIDERATION TO GURC AND GRATA EXPLANATIONS AND PROPOSALS. OWONO AND MPOUMA, BOTH OF WHOM SPEAK ENGLISH, WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT VISIT TO SEE LOAN OFFICERS. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ALSO PREPARING ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GRATA PROJECT FOR BANK.

4. ADDITIONAL MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED WITH NATIONAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION (SNI), MINISTRY OF PLAN, WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN DEBT PAYMENT NATIONAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT. IF CONSIDERED HELPFUL MEETINGS CAN ALSO BE ARRANGED WITH MINISTRY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS RE GT AND E MICROWAVE LOAN AND MINISTRY OF ARMED FORCES RE POSSIBLE GUARANTEES FOR NON-DEFENSE EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED BY MILITARY.

5. DOUALA CONSUL WILL MAKE APPOINTMENT FOR JUNE 11 WITH CAM-AIR TECHNICAL DIRECTOR CASTELBOU, WHO WAS FORMERLY AIR FRANCE REP IN SEATTLE AND SPEAKS ENGLISH.

6. COMMENTS REQUESTED RE ABOVE ITINERARY SUGGESTIONS.
MOORE

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